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CENTRAL
INTELLIGENCE
BULLETIN



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Next 1 Page(s) In Document Exempt

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

11 January 1960

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DAILY BRIEF

II. ASIA-AFRICA

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South Korea - Communist China: A clash between Chinese Communist fishing boats and a South Korean Coast Guard vessel on the night of 9-10 January resulted in several South Korean casualties and a request by the Koreans for US air support, which was refused. The incident occurred about 50 miles off the western coast of South Korea, well within the so-called "Rhee line." Chinese Communist fishing craft in the Yellow Sea are known to carry light weapons. Two similar clashes with Chinese Communist vessels occurred in December. Further incidents of this sort are probable if the Koreans continue their efforts to enforce the Rhee line, which is not recognized by Peiping.

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DK
Iraq-UAR: Nasir's continuing troubles in Syria have furnished Iraqi Prime Minister Qasim an opportunity to seize the initiative in the UAR-Iraq propaganda war. Although Iraqi propaganda regarding the UAR has in recent months been largely defensive, Qasim and the Iraqi press and radio now are vigorously attacking Egyptian domination of Syria, calling for the "liberation" of Syria, and predicting an eventual Iraqi-Syrian union. Although these statements probably will not have an immediate effect on events in Syria, any weakening of Nasir's hold there could greatly increase the effectiveness of Qasim's campaign.

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(Page 3)

III. THE WEST

DK
Nicaragua: Leaders of the Nicaraguan opposition parties, who apparently have come to accept the futility of further plotting against the government, now are seeking an accommodation with President Somoza. Consequently, any new incursions at this time by exiles based outside the country are unlikely to win any significant support in Nicaragua. The Somoza regime, in a move reflecting its confidence, on 30 December lifted the state of siege imposed last May just prior to the first of last year's several unsuccessful raids.

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(Page 4)

11 Jan 60

DAILY BRIEF

ii

 25X1

Next 1 Page(s) In Document Exempt

Qasim Intensifies Propaganda Campaign Against Nasir

Taking advantage of Nasir's mounting difficulties in Syria, Iraqi Prime Minister Qasim has seized the opportunity to take the initiative in their propaganda war. Following up his revival last November of Nuri Said's Fertile Crescent Plan--the union of Iraq, Syria, Jordan, and Palestine--Qasim in a speech on 8 January denounced Egyptian domination of Syria and openly appealed to the Syrians to break away from the United Arab Republic, saying Iraq "will not stand idly by in the face of injustices done the Syrian people." While his statements probably will have little immediate effect on events in Syria, a further deterioration of Nasir's position in Syria would assist Qasim's efforts to put Nasir on the defensive.

Accompanying Qasim's attempts to promote himself as the principal Arab nationalist leader have been charges that Egypt and Jordan joined Israel in annexing parts of Palestine. He has appropriated about \$1,500,000 for the establishment of a "Palestine Government" and is calling for incorporation of the Gaza Strip, administered by Egypt since 1948, the Palestinian section of Jordan, and Israel into a Palestine Republic.

Qasim has accused the UAR and Jordan of suppressing the appeal to all Arab governments sent last November by the former Mufti of Jerusalem, Haj Amin al-Husayni, president of the Arab Higher Committee for Palestine. Husayni called for the creation of an independent state of Palestine and the formation of a Palestinian army. This is the first suggestion that Qasim may support the ex-Mufti, who formerly lived in Egypt on a subsidy from Nasir.

Baghdad's propaganda also is focusing on the Arabs in southern Iran, charging oppressive rule by the Iranian Government and making demands for territorial changes. In the Persian Gulf area, the Omani rebels have been feted and given propaganda assistance, in competition with that of Cairo. Another facet of Qasim's propaganda war has been an appeal to the Kurds of Syria and Iran to look to Iraq for realization of their aspirations for autonomy.

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III. THE WEST

Situation in Nicaragua

Leaders of the Nicaraguan opposition parties, who apparently have come to accept the futility of continued plotting against the regime, now are seeking an accommodation with Somoza that would recognize the legality of his term, which ends in 1963, in return for assurances of free campaigning and free elections to choose his successor.

The Somoza regime, in a move reflecting its confidence, on 30 December removed restrictions on freedom of the press and lifted the state of siege imposed last May just prior to the first of last year's several abortive incursions. Consequently, any new raids at this time by exiles based outside the country are unlikely to win any significant support inside Nicaragua.

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